MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): I second it.

The motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, the members to which would be nominated at a subsequent meeting of the Council, was then put to the vote of the House and carried *nem con.*

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

CONSTITUTION OF A COMMITTE TO TAKE STEPS TO RELIEVE THE PEOPLE FROM THE PRESENT FINANCIAL CRISIS.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

> This Council recommends to the Government that a committee with an elected non-official majority and the necessary financial aid from the Government be constituted immediately for taking prompt steps to relieve the people from the present financial crisis.

Sir, unfortunately, this subject of economic depression is not a new one. Economic depression has been felt in the country for the last eighteen months.

PRESIDENT: In view of the discussion that has taken place in the House, the day before yesterday, on the same subject, have you anything to say?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The adjournment motion was on the delay on the part of Government in taking steps to relieve the people of this economic depression.

PRESIDENT: I merely wanted to suggest it to you in order to know whether you really wish to discuss your present resolution.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): This subject is not new to this Council. It was referred to when the adjournment motion on the delay on the part of Government to take remedial measures was discussed in this House two days back. Many constructive suggestions have been made by most of the members on this side of the House. The fact that the Government are not unaware of the seriousness of the situation is evident from the fact that the Dewan, in his Address to the Popular Assembly, has made reference to it. But the committee which was then promised by the Dewan is different from the committee which I have now suggested in this resolution. The committee promised by the Dewan is to enquire into the causes of the present economic depression and to submit a report to Government.

PRESIDENT: It is to suggest remedies also.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): It can suggest remedies only in its report. But the committee I suggest in my resolution is a committee for taking immediate steps for relieving the people from the present financial crisis.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Without knowing the causes, the committee is going to take immediate steps to remedy the situation?

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The committee will look into the causes and take remedial measures to relieve the people. Perhaps, my suggestion appears to be very novel.

PRESIDENT: You may explain it.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): This situation which we have now to face, Sir, is not a matter which can be referred to a committee for enquiry and submission of a report at some distant date. There are certain matters on which urgent action has to be taken by Government; and, the economic depression and the distress caused to the people thereby are such urgent matters. If we are to draw inferences from the time taken by the various committees that have so far been constituted, it is more or less certain, that this committee also would take a long time to submit its report. So, what I suggest is that, even apart from and without prejudice to the committee promised by the Dewan, the committee that I now suggest in my resolution may be appointed. Sir, if I remember right, in reply to a representation in the Popular Assembly, the Dewan stated that though a committee to enquire into the causes of the depression would be appointed, that would not debar the Government from taking other steps to relieve the people even before the committee submits its report. My present suggestion is that, that matter of taking immediate steps to relieve the distress might be entrusted to a committee with an elected non-official majority. Since the committee is to take immediate action and to spend money, I know it should consist of responsible officials also. I would be very glad if the Dewan himself is the President of the Committee, so that there may not be any difficulty or delay in getting the expenditure, recommended by the committee, sanctioned by Government, or in taking other steps. The committee must be given adequate funds to meet the situation. Anyhow, since the time is very limited I do not want... ..

PRESIDENT: But, I do not think you have made the position clear. What is the committee to do? Where is to get the money from?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Government should give the necessary funds.

PRESIDENT: The committee should pass resolutions and get money from Government.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Yes.

PRESIDENT: That is exactly what the other committee also is going to do.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The other committee has first to submit its report which the Government would consider, and then take steps.

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know from the member, what are the functions of the committee now suggested by him? He may explain it by illustrations, or suggestions, or by description.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I have clearly stated it here in my resolution.

"……for taking prompt steps to relieve the people from the present financial crisis."

My friend Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai suggested that the allotment for loans may be increased, that some extension of time may be granted to the people for the payment of taxes, that the tax may be remitted and that more money may be allotted for the Public Works Department in the different parts of the State so that more people may get work to relieve them from unemployment and distress. In regard to all these and various other steps, the committee which I suggest, will immediately take action without waiting to make a report or to get it approved by Government for further action by them.

PRESIDENT: What is the action that the committee is going to take?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The committee will suggest steps to be taken, and make the Government allot money for them.

PRESIDENT: That is exactly what the other committee is going to do.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The committee will itself pass orders sanctioning more money for loans, pass orders remitting taxes, pass orders giving more time for the payment of taxes. All these things the committee can do directly and immediately if the Dewan or the Chief Secretary is in the committee.

PRESIDENT: Even if the Dewan presides, the Committee would not be Government; it would only be a committee.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The Dewan, forming part of the committee, will feel the necessity to take immediate action suggested by the committee.

PRESIDENT: You do not seem to understand me, Mr. Asan. A committee is proposed to be constituted by Government……

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Orders have already been issued.

PRESIDENT: The G. O. constituting the committee has already been issued. It is a committee of officials and non-officials and it has to consider this question of economic distress, its causes, and to suggest remedial measures. The suggestions of the committee will be considered by Government with all the weight that they deserve. I do not understand what more *your* committee is going to do. Even from what you have been saying hitherto, I have not been able to understand

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[President.]

what you mean. Whatever may be the constitution of the committee, it will only be a committee; and the most it can do is tosuggest things to Government. It cannot do anything more than that.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The committee constituted by Government can only make a report to Government, while the one that I suggest can itself take immediate action.

PRESIDENT: Why do you think that the committee constituted by Government would take more time to make suggestions than the committee you now suggest?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Because, the committte constituted by Government can only report to Government; and Government will consider the report and then take action. On the other hand, the committee that I now suggest can directly take immediate action.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Goverment*): Is it the member's idea that the committee that he suggests should be entrusted with money and should be allowed to make cash loans as they like without even getting any security? Does he suggest that the tax-payers' money should be freely distributed like that?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): No, no.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): What is the financial aid that he speaks of in his resolution?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikpalli*): The financial aid recommended by the committee must be given by Government. The committee must be given the financial aid where they require it. I do not suggest that the committee should be allowed to spend money without Government sanction.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Then, I cannot understand any distinction between the committee now suggested by the member and the one constituted by Government.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Therefore, what I suggest is that a committee should be appointed.....

PRESIDENT: Unless you make your position clear and suggest what the functions of the committee are, it is impossible to put it before the House, Mr. Asan.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The committee should take immediate steps.

PRESIDENT: What steps?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): It must immediately suggest remedial measures.

PRESIDENT: To Government?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikaplli*): Yes, Sir; and the Government must take immediate action.

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MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Who is to pay for the committee?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Government.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): മി. ആശാന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ ഹൃദയപൂർവ്വം പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. ഈ വിഷയത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഇതിനുമുമ്പു ഒരു അടിയന്തരപ്രമേയം ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കയും അതിലേക്കു ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി രൂപീകരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും, അസംബിളി റിപ്പോർട്ടിലെ താല്പര്യമനുസരിച്ചു് ഒന്നര ലക്ഷം രൂപാ അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും, ബാങ്കിങ്ങ് എൻക്വയറി കമ്മിറ്റി റിപ്പോർട്ടനുസരിച്ചു ട്രഷറിയിലുള്ള ജാമ്യബാങ്കു താമസിയാതെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുമെന്നും മറും ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി മറുപടി പറയുകയുംചെയ്തു. ഇതിനുംപുറമേ ഏതാനും സംഗതികൂടി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാനാണു് മി. ആശാന്റെ പ്രമേയംകൊണ്ടുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സെൻസസ് അനുസരിച്ചു് ൪൦ ലക്ഷത്തോളം ജനങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെയുണ്ടു്. അതിൽ ൧൦-ൽ ഒരാൾക്കു കടമുണ്ടെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ഏകദേശം അഞ്ചുലക്ഷം ആളുകൾ കടപിടിക്കുന്നതായികാണാം. ഒരു കടമൊക്കെ നൂറുരൂപാവീതം ൧൫ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ വിദേശങ്ങളിലേക്കു് കടയ്ക്കായി പോയിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ കമ്മിറ്റി മുഖാന്തിരം, ഓലക്കടമുണ്ടാക്കി ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ഇത്രയും രൂപാ ലാഭമുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാം. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള വ്യവസായങ്ങൾക്കു ധനംകൊടുത്തു അഭിവൃദ്ധിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ വ്യവസായഡയറക്ടർക്കു സാധിക്കും. വിദേശങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും വരുന്ന കാപ്പി, തേയില, ഇവയ്ക്കു പകരം കരിക്കു കൃഷിക്കണമെന്നുവന്നാൽ തേങ്ങയ്ക്കു വില കൂടുതൽ കിട്ടും.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): ഈ വ്യവസായങ്ങൾ രൂപീകരിച്ചശേഷം ഇന്നത്തെ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം പരിഹരിച്ചാൽ മതി എന്നാണൊ വിചാരിക്കുന്നതു്?

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): ഇപ്രകാരമുള്ള പല നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളേയും പറഞ്ഞു ഗാന്ധിമാർഗ്ഗമായി ആലോചിച്ചു്, മി ആശാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിയുള്ള പൊതുജനപ്രതിനിധികളുടെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ ഇന്നതാണെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അറിയിക്കാൻസാധിക്കും. അതിനാൽ മി. ആശാന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ ബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

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MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): മി. ആശാന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ എതിർത്തുകൊള്ളുന്നു. സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനത്തെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കുന്നതിനു ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി ഗവണ്മെൻറു മിക്കവാറും രൂപീകരിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇനിയും അതിനെപ്പറ്റി വേറെ എന്തോ അന്വേഷിക്കുന്നതിനു ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിക്കൂടി നിയമിക്കണമെന്നാണ് മി. ആശാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. ആ സംഗതികൾക്കുകൂടി ഇപ്പോഴം രൂപീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന കമ്മിറ്റിയെ അറിയിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം അവർ ആലോചിച്ചുകൊള്ളും. ഒന്നിനുപുറകെ ഒന്നായിട്ടു കമ്മിറ്റികൾ രൂപീകരിച്ചതുകൊണ്ടു പ്രയോജനമൊന്നുമില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടു വരുന്നേയ്ക്കും നമ്മുടെ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം അവസാനിച്ചു കഴിയുമെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നതു്. എങ്കിലും അവരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടുകൊണ്ടു ഇന്നല്ലെങ്കിൽ നാളെ ഒരു ഗുണം ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നുള്ളതു സമ്മതിക്കാം. അതിനാൽ ആ കമ്മിറ്റിതന്നെ വളരെ വേഗത്തിൽ അവരുടെ പ്രവൃത്തിചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഉത്തേജിപ്പിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം മറെറാരു കമ്മിറ്റിക്കൂടാതെ തന്നെ ഇന്നത്തെനിലയ്ക്കു അവരിൽനിന്നും വേണ്ട നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ നമുക്കു ലഭിക്കുമെന്നാശിക്കാം. ഈ കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടു വരുന്നതിനിടയ്ക്കു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ വല്ലതും ചെയ്യുവാൻ കഴിവുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു ചെയ്യണം. അല്ലാതെ ഇനിയും ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി രൂപീകരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള മി. ആശാന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ ബലമായി എതിർത്തുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. A. C. KURIAKOSE (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): സർ, എനിക്കും ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുഭവിച്ചു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയെ അല്പം ആകർഷിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. മി. ദാമോദരൻ ആശാന്റെ പ്രമേയം ഒരുവിധത്തിലും എതിർക്കപ്പെടേണ്ടതായ ഒന്നല്ല; തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം അത്രമാത്രം പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയെ ആകർഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ഇനിയും ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി വേണമെന്നാണൊ അഭിപ്രായം?

MR. A. C. KURIAKOSE (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): അഭിപ്രായം പറഞ്ഞുവരുമ്പോൾ മനസ്സിലാകും. വ്യക്തമായില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഒടുവിൽ ചോദിക്കുക; സമാധാനം പറയാം.

ജനങ്ങളുടെയിടയിൽ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം എത്രമാത്രം ബാധിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഏതെല്ലാം സ്വരൂപത്തിൽ

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മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ കഴിയുമോ അങ്ങിനെയെല്ലാം മനസ്സിലാക്കുകയും, ഗവ ണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധയെ എങ്ങിനെയെല്ലാം ആകർഷിക്കാൻ കഴിയുമോ അങ്ങിനെയെല്ലാം ആകർഷിക്കയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു് ജനങ്ങളുടേയും ജന പ്രതിനിധികളുടേയും ധർമ്മമാകുന്നു. ഈ പ്രമേയം ഏതാനുംമാസത്തി നുമുമ്പെ അയച്ചു; ഉടൻതന്നെ ബാലട്ടിൽകിട്ടി; അതിനിടയ്ക്കു ഇതി നെസംബന്ധിച്ചു അടിയന്തിരപ്രമേയം വന്നു ചർച്ചചെയ്തു; എന്നിരുന്നാ ലും ഈ പ്രമേയംകൊണ്ടു നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന സംഗതികൾ ഉടനടി നട ത്തിക്കുകയാം എന്നുള്ള വിചാരം മി. ആശാനു് ഇല്ല. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആ വശ്യം എത്രമാത്രമുണ്ടെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറു പലതരത്തിൽ മനസ്സിലാക്കി യിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്നിട്ടും ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ ശരിയായവിധത്തിൽ ആകുന്നില്ലെന്നാണു് ജനങ്ങളുടെ ബോദ്ധ്യം. അതുകൊണ്ടുകിട്ടിയ സന്ദർഭത്തെ ഉപയോഗിച്ചും ഈ സം ഗതി വീണ്ടും ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതു നിമി ത്തം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വല്ല ഗുണവും കിട്ടുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ കിട്ടികൊള്ളട്ടെ എന്നു ള്ള വിചാരമാണു് മി. ആശാനെ ഇതിലേക്കു പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചതു് എന്നാ ണു് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഞാനും ഇപ്പോൾ ഇതു യും പറയുന്നതു്. ഇതിലേക്കു ഞാൻ മുമ്പുപറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ, ഓരോ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേയും സാമ്പത്തീകാധഃപതനം ഏതു സ്വരൂപത്തിൽ ഇരി ക്കുന്നു എന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ പേഷ്കാരന്മാർക്കു് ഉടനെ ഒരുത്തരവുകൊടു ത്തു തഹശീൽദാർ മുഖാന്തിരം അന്വേഷിച്ചു, സാവ്വത്രികമായി ഓരോ ഡിവിഷനിലേയും തല്ക്കാലസ്ഥിതി എന്താണു് എന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കി, പെട്ടെന്നു നടപടി വല്ലതും നടത്തണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതാതു തഹശീ ൽദാരന്മാരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടു വരുത്തണം. അതേ അവസരത്തിൽതന്നെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ഈ നടപടികൊണ്ടു കഴിയുന്നതും ആശ്വാസം ഉ ണ്ടാക്കാൻ എത്രയും അവധാനപൂർവ്വം ചിന്തിച്ചു വേഗത്തിൽ വേണ്ട പ്രവൃത്തികൾ നടത്തണമെന്നുള്ളതു നിരാക്ഷേപമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാ ണു്. ഇത്രയും സംഗതികൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവ രുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ഇപ്പോൾ രൂപീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കമ്മിറ്റിക്കുതന്നെയും മേ ൽനടപടി നടത്തുന്നതിനു ഒരു പ്രതിബന്ധവും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ല. അതി നാൽ ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ ഈ പ്രമേയം യോജിച്ചതാണു് എന്നു പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടു് ഞാൻ പ്രമേയത്തോടു പൂർണ്ണമായി യോജിച്ചുകൊ ള്ളുന്നു.

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MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Sir, the resolution of Mr. Asan is a specific recommendation to Government to appoint a committee, with financial aid given to it to relieve the present situation. As stated by Mr. Asan himself, the Dewan, at the last session of the Assembly, promised to appoint a committee to consider the various causes that have led to the depression, and to do all that the present situation requires. Mr. George also, while speaking on the adjournment motion the day before yesterday, has clearly stated that the present trade depression was not one confined to Travancore alone. As has been observed by the Dewan also, this economic depression is the outcome of various causes that have been affecting the Continent as well as several countries. The committee promised by the Dewan is for looking into the causes and for suggesting suitable remedial measures. The committee now recommended by Mr. Assan is one which should be given money immediately, perhaps, as interpellated by Mr. Gorge, to be distributed among the people immediately. The causes for this trade depression are varied. Even the opinions of great economists are conflicting with respect to that. While one says that the crash of Walsh Street in October 1929 is responsible for this depression, another is of opinion that the currency policy now adopted by the Government of India is responsible for it, and a third is of opinion that overproduction and under-demand is responsible, and a fourth that the present high standard of living is primarily responsible for the fall in price of paddy and rice and other food products. It shows that it is idle to find one cause at the root of this depression. Therefore, I would request Mr. Asan to withdraw this resolution just now and to wait and see what the committee to be constituted by Government is going to do.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, yesterday also we had a long discussion about the subject under discussion now. I am sorry to find that I was not enlightened on any doubtful point in my mind either during yesterday's discussion or to-day. When resolutions are placed before the House, and when the movers want the House to vote in their favour, when movers want to convert the House in their favour it is the duty of the mover or at least the supporters to put forward some convincing arguments which would win the support of the members of the House. Yesterday also I was impatient to hear from some of the expert members on the other side of the House, points which would enlighten the House on the several aspects of the present world-wide economic depression with special reference to the peculiarities of our country. Unfortunately, I was disappointed. The sum- total of the discussion is that nobody knows exactly what this depression is due to nor does anybody know when or how to remove it. That was t e case that was presented before the House yesterday. The nature of the discussion is the same to-day also. It seems under the circumstances impossible for anybody exactly to place his finger at the very spot which is the cause of this depression or at the very spot which would remove this depression. I am doubtful whether any purpose would be served by the appointment of any committee unless we could anticipate

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that the depression is sure to continue for some time to come. Experts throughout the world, as has already been pointed out, are not able to find out the real cause of this depression. Therefore, I am of opinion, that it would be better to appoint one or two local experts to look into the opinions of experts in other countries throughout the world and to adopt suitable suggestions of theirs. When the whole world is in the dark as to the real causes of the situation and as to the proper remedies for it, I ask, in all humility, whether any committee would be able to serve any useful purpose, particularly when there is keen economic depression throughout the country and when the Government coffers are practically empty. I have not so far heard, either yesterday or to-day any practically useful suggestion thrown out as to how the committee should work effectively to help the people. I expect every member, speaking in favour of a particular subject and wishing to get the support of the House, to enlighten the House on doubtful of points and to put forth facts and arguments which would convince the House and win it over to his side. But, nothing like that has been done in these two days. That is the reason for my present speech.

It seems to me, Sir, that a better course to be adopted under the present circumstances—and my point is supported by cogent reasons also—is this. Looking at our trade, I find from the figures that the imports are more than paid for by exports. Then, how can there be any economic depression? I find that paddy, cocoanut, tapioca and other food products are very cheap; and the people seem to live in a time of plenty, if I may say so. There is no famine. Then, with respect to our other needs also, apparently all of us are satisfied and look rich and decent—at any rate, that is how we have impressed distinguished visitors to our State. Then, what is the sort of economic depression here? Again, I find—we can get the exact figures from the Commissioner of Police—the number of cars, buses, lorries and other motor vehicles, imported increasing tremendously; and we now see so many of these motor cars in the country that one has to wonder how the people of our country have managed to get so many of these cars within the last few years.

I do not know what this committee that is to be constituted is going to do. I cannot understand what remedies they can suggest without actually knowing the causes. How are Government going to act upon the recommendations of the committee? My view is that a committee is unnecessary. The Dewan with the help of a vigilant Secretary or even two secretaries if necessary may go into the question and do something which would give some immediate relief to the people. That will be a better method than appointing a committee which is to drag on and submit a report within two or three years. I suggest the import of motor cars to be prohibited for some years because they are too many in our country. Some relief may be given to the chitty foremen and subscribers by suspending chitties for a time if possible. In the matter of agricultural loans Government may pass orders to

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[Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.]

return the loans by instalments giving the people more time. As regards the appointment of a Trade Agent as suggested by many members that also may be immediately looked into. With regard to paddy, I came to understand that in Central and South Travancore several thousand kottas of paddy are stocked by people which is not sold on account of competition and want of price. Some method may be found out to sell that paddy.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): നെല്ലിനു വിലകൂടാൻ ഇടയാക്കുന്നതു സാധുക്കളായ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഉപദ്രവമല്ലെ?

MR. K P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I never said that poor people must be taxed by prohibiting import of foreign paddy. When I went to South Travancore I happened to talk with a rich man who has got six thousand kottas of paddy stocked in his house. He is not able to get Rs. 5 per kotta. I told him to sell it at Rs. $4\frac{1}{2}$ and deposit the money in a bank instead of stocking them. That is what I suggested. An efficient man whether the Dewan or the Chief Secretary with another vigilant Secretary should be asked to take immediate measures which will give relief to the people. I have no belief in committees. We do not know the exact causes of this economic depression. Even experts are not aware of them. Under these circumstances, I think some other prompt measures have to be taken for giving relief to the people.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): ഏക്കണോമിക്ക് ഡിപ്രഷൻ ഉണ്ടെന്നോ ഇല്ലെന്നോ മെമ്പറുടെ അഭിപ്രായം?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): ഉണ്ടെന്നുപറഞ്ഞല്ലോ.

I have already admitted that there is economic depression. Even if I do not admit, experts have admitted that and my opinion does not count much.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): അതിനകാരണമെന്താണെന്നു പറയാമോ?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I do not know. Some people say it is an after-effect of the war. Others say it is due to over production. There is competition and some countries in the west are stocking all the gold and silver in their countries anticipating a war. That is another reason. The civil disobedience movement may be said to be another reason. Collapse of banks throughout the world is another reason. Over production of wheat in Russia is said to be one other cause. Some people are of opinion that the exchange policy of the Government of India is another reason. Nobody knows what the exact causes are. Experts have taken up the question and made investigations.

With these words I also support the motion of Mr. Asan.

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MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): Sir, I also wish to express a few words in connection with this all-important question. As expressed by Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai, this is a question which has engaged the attention of many of the members of this House and many of us have been able to express various aspects of the question not only to-day but in the previous day's discussion also. Therefore, I am not going to make any observations with regard to the matters that have already been discussed on the floor of the House. Anyhow, I wish to draw attention to one aspect of the question. All have admitted that there is economic depression. But some may doubt as to the causes of the depression. My friend Mr. Asan wants a committee with sufficient funds to pay them off to the people who are in distress. The Government took another point of view and they have appointed a committee just to enquire into the causes of the present depression and if I am well informed orders have already been issued constituting a committee. My friend Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai also observed that nobody is aware of the real causes of this depression. Mr. Piraviperumal Pillai was saying that it is due to the exchange policy, over production and all that. Anyhow, it is quite certain that none of us are in a position to put our finger at the right spot. None of my friends were able to find out the real causes. But we are terribly afraid of these committees. My friend Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai also expressed this fear. These committees are not prompt. I am sorry to say that most of them do not take any vigilant action and in a case like this we cannot wait. Of course it has already been constituted. But the committee must not be sleeping. It must go about and find out the real causes. So much about the constitution of the committee.

I may say one or two words as regards the relief measures to be effected by the committee. We have to consider it from all points of view. Some of the members have been suggesting the appointment of a Trade Agent and the starting of Land Mortgage Banks. These are necessary not only in time of depression. The learned Financial Secretary has been asking what will be the functions of the Trade Agent and where is he to be appointed and all that. I do not know what prompted him to ask these questions either out of mere curiosity or for information. If it is for the latter I am quite prepared to give him information. Sir, in Travancore there are certain raw materials which the outside world does not know. We have got tapioca and cassava which are now so very important in the outside world. There is also the timber. I have only very limited time. These are some of the points to which I would lay stress which should engage the attention of Government not only at the time of depression but in other times as well. The Chief Secretary said it is not possible to constitute a Land Mortgage Bank all of a sudden. What people really want is some relief work. The Chief Secretary said the other day that Government have set apart 1½ lakhs of rupees for relief measures. He says it is to be given to the poor people at the rate of 100 and 200 rupees as agricultural loans. But the working of the Agricultural Department is not satisfactory. It is

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[Mr. Matthew Murikkan.]

not the fault of anybody. The poor people actually do not get the money. It is good that a lakh and a half of rupees is set apart. But it is of no use. We want more money to be set apart. Government should kindly see that these loans which are intended to be given are given as early as possible. They should also see that this money is used for the intention for which it is given. This is the first step that Government can take by way of relieving the people.

Then there is another way in which the Government can help the people. That is with regard to the question of rubber. Rubber industry is in the point of a great revolution in Travancore. Many of our people are estate owners. It is these people that are actually suffering. Government should start some company for manufacturing rubber into some articles of use like the tyres of motor cars. The cost of a tyre is nearly Rs. 35. I am not quite certain. I am myself not a user of car. One tyre may be manufactured out of 6 or 7 lbs, of rubber the cost of which is very low. Of course Government will have to spend some money for floating such a company. Manufacture of tyre is only one instance. I have no time to be exhaustive. The serious attention of Government has to be directed towards the rubber question. I appreciate the Government for having appointed a commitee to go into the whole question. But the committee should not be sleeping. It should be very vigilant and do something immediately to alleviate the distress of the numerous suffering people of Travancore.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): സർ, സമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം ഉത്തര തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും, ദക്ഷിണ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുംഉണ്ട്. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഗവണ്മെൻറും ജനങ്ങളും ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുമുണ്ട്. അതിനെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനായി ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി ഏർപ്പെട്ടത്തണമെന്ന് ഇരുകക്ഷികാരും അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി രൂപീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി അറിയുന്നു. ആ കമ്മിറ്റിയിൽ അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥ അംഗങ്ങൾ കൂടി ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കണം. അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥ മെംബർമാർക്കു പല സ്ഥലത്തുള്ള വിവരങ്ങൾ അറിയാമെന്നുള്ളതിനാൽ അവരെക്കൂടി ചേർക്കുന്നത് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥ മെംബർമാർക്കു വലിയ സഹായകരമാണ്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കമ്മിറ്റിയിൽ തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ നിന്നും അംഗങ്ങൾ ആരും തന്നെയില്ല. മി. ആശാൻറെ പ്രമേയം അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥപ്രതിപക്ഷമുള്ള ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി വേണമെന്നാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഇതു് ഒരു ഗവണ്മെൻറു മെഷിനറിയായാൽ പ്രവൃത്തിയിൽ വളരെ കാലതാമസം നേരിടുമെന്നും പറയുന്നുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥപ്രതിപക്ഷം വേണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതു്.

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സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനത്തെപ്പറ്റി പലരും പലതും പറഞ്ഞു. എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു കടം മേടിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവർക്ക് അവരുടെ കാർഷികോല്പന്നങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടു കടം വീട്ടുൻ സാധിക്കുന്നില്ല. അതിനാൽ time bar limitation കുറച്ചു suspend ചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്.

PRESIDENT: That is going beyond the resolution.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*); മറ്റു പലരും പറഞ്ഞതുകൊണ്ടു ഞാനും പറഞ്ഞുവെന്നേയൊള്ളൂ. ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തോട് അനുകൂലിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: This is the last meeting of the third Council constituted under Regulation II of 1097. It has now worked for three years and we are now on the eve of a general election. I have been associated with the work of this Council for the last two years as its President and I have presided over all its sessions during that period except the last one. This Council like its predecessors has to its credit a large volume of good work, legislative and otherwise and it may well be proud of the quantity and the quality of the work that has been done. Now we part. I trust many of you will meet again here at the first session of the next Council which is about to be constituted. But inside the Council or outside it I confidently trust that we shall all be found united in Loyalty to our benign Ruler and working wholeheartedly for the good of the country.

This Council will now stand prorogued until in the usual course its dissolution is notified.

The Council was prorogued at 5-5 P. M.

C. O. MADHAVAN,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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